



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Gender Sensitive Parliament Advisory Group meeting held on Wednesday 4 October 2023 at 6pm

Present:

- Rt Hon Alison Johnstone MSP, Presiding Officer (Chair)
- Ruth Maguire MSP, Scottish National Party
- Sue Webber MSP, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party
- Carol Mochan MSP, Scottish Labour Party
- Maggie Chapman MSP, Scottish Green Party
- Professor Sarah Childs, Personal Chair of Politics and Gender, University of Edinburgh
- Professor Meryl Kenny, Professor of Gender and Politics, University of Edinburgh
- Femi Otitoju, Diversity and Inclusion Consultant

Apologies:

- Hannah Johnson, Senior Researcher, Senedd Cymru
- Beatrice Wishart MSP, Scottish Liberal Democrats

In attendance:

- Susan Duffy, Group Head of Engagement and Communications
- Mark Brough, Principal Private Secretary, Office of the Presiding Officer
- Jennifer Griffin, Private Secretary, Office of the Presiding Officer
- Lisa Creamer, Gender Sensitive Advisory Group Secretariat
- Polly Davidson, Gender Sensitive Advisory Group Secretariat
- Hannah Gunn, Gender Sensitive Advisory Group Secretariat
- Victoria Barby, Gender Sensitive Advisory Group Secretariat
- Tom Malone, Parliament Communications Office

Item 1: Introductions

- 1.1 The Presiding Officer welcomed those attending and all present introduced themselves.

Item 2: Discussion on the priorities for the advisory group

- 2.1 The Group discussed its role and plans for future work, including potential barriers to change, and key levers for change, including formal and informal actions the Group can take, and other bodies or individuals that could be played-in to support progress towards becoming a Gender Sensitive Parliament.
- 2.2 The Group discussed how it might make its work visible and encourage change, and discussed other bodies and individuals who could be engaged in its work. The Group also discussed the resources and skills development required to encourage women to get involved in elected politics.
- 2.3 The Group discussed the intersection of other issues which could affect women's participation in the work of the Parliament and political processes and the ongoing commitment to embedding an intersectional approach across the recommendations of the Gender Sensitive Audit.

Item 3: Update on the progress on recommendations

- 3.1 The Group noted the update on the progress made in relation to the recommendations made in the Gender Sensitive Audit Report.
- 3.2 Following the update and discussion of the recommendations, the Group agreed actions in relation to the following recommendations made in the gender Sensitive Audit report:
- 3.3 Recommendation 3: in recognition of the need to consider issues on an intersectional basis, the Group agreed to prioritise commissioning a disability audit of the parliamentary estate.

The Group noted that it would also wish to pursue research into MSP job-sharing and further parental leave provisions at a later date.

- 3.4 Recommendation 30: the Group agreed that the survey of MSPs (covering members' experience of: Committee membership, Convenership, and Party Leadership opportunities; new MSP

socialization; gender and diversity; inappropriate behaviour, including microaggressions; and perceptions of gender sensitivity and inclusion, including childcare provision) should be issued in tandem with the diversity monitoring form for all MSPs recommended in the Gender Sensitive Audit report.

Item 4: Time and date of next meeting

- 4.1 The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 24 January 2024 at 12.30pm.